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Illegal immigrants freed after testifying against plant manager; Pair remain under house arrest

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Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Postville Herald-Leader

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**What's
happening in
and around
Postville.....**

Booster club to meet in Mott Lobby

Booster Club will meet tonight (September 10) at 7 p.m. in the Mott Lobby. It is not too late to join the Booster Club. Dues may be paid at any Pirate Athletic event. The Booster Club is taking order through Friday, September 12 for Pirate clothing and accessories. Order forms are available at either Postville bank or by contacting Jeanne Kruckenberg at 563-864-7135.

City-Wide Garage Sales Oct. 2, 3, 4

Postville City Wide Garage Sales are scheduled for October 2, 3 and 4. To have your sale placed on the map call either Jo Suckow at 864-7557 or Judy Hyman at 864-3517. Cost to be on the map is \$6. When calling to have your sale listed included a list of items, times and dates of the sale, and sale location. The deadline to have your sale placed on the map is Friday, September 26.

DivorceCare support group

DivorceCare is a special weekly seminar and support group for people who are separated or divorced. DivorceCare support group meets Mondays starting on Sept. 8 from 7-8:30 pm at the Postville Community Presbyterian Church, 106 S. Reynolds St., Postville, IA. Cost is \$20, baby sitting available upon request, call 563-864-3736 for more information

At the Council

City approves merger of park and pool boards

The Postville City Council, meeting in regular session Monday evening, accepted the bid of Meyer Concrete (Jeremy Meyer) for the repair of sidewalks at five locations in town. The bid accepted was \$1593. The only other bid received was that of Redmond Construction of Lansing, whose bid was \$3200.

A request for a second handicapped accessible parking space in front of Miller-Gundersen Clinic on the corner of Williams and Reynolds Streets was also approved. The space will be designated on West Williams street near the facility's ramp.

A bid of \$2,226.75 was accepted from West Side Lumber of Waukon for materials to do roof repair at the City's salt and sand shed. City Clerk Darcy Radloff explained that the actual repair will be completed by City employees.

An ordinance merging the

parks and recreation board and the swimming pool board was placed on its final adoption. It was noted that the combined board is to have no less than seven members and the board has the jurisdiction to set attendance requirements as it sees fit.

The board is to have no power over the softball league.

A complaint concerning the mowing of residential property by city-contracted individuals, when the grass is longer than four inches, was denied. The Council members felt the current method of notifying residents about the procedure is adequate and the gentleman issuing the complaint, who was present at the meeting, was reminded that the best way to avoid

Postville City Council
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Illegal immigrants freed after testifying against plant manager; pair remain under house arrest

According to Federal court records, two illegal immigrants arrested during the raid at Agriprocessors on May 12, 2008 have been freed after testifying against a plant manager. Josue Muj-Ixen and Antonio Vasquez-Arrendondo remain under house arrest as they await a decision on their immigration status.

The men are identified in court records as witnesses in the federal government's case against Juan Carlos Guerrero-Espinoza.

Guerrero-Espinoza pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to hire illegal immigrants and one count of aiding and abetting the hiring of illegal immigrants. Court documents allege that over a one year period Guerrero-Espinoza conspired

to hire ten or more persons who were in the United States illegally. He struck a deal with federal prosecutors and faces up to ten years in prison and a \$500,000 fine.

The courts allow the men, who are on house arrest, to leave their homes only for work, religious services and other court-approved activities.

Court documents also show that federal officials arrested Leonides Ordonez-Lopez and Bulmaro Paredes-Murado on August 4, 2008 as witnesses in the case against Martin De La Rosa-Loera, the other plant manager who was arrested.

De La Rosa-Loera pleaded guilty in Federal court in Cedar Rapids under a plea agreement to aiding and abetting undocumented immigrants.

PETA files complaint with U. S. Dept. of Agriculture

The animal rights group, PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) has filed a complaint late last month with the U. S. Department of Agriculture which alleges that Agriprocessors, Inc is violating the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. PETA spokespeople said Friday that undercover agents shot video August 13 that shows the use of a second gouging when killing cattle. The document alleges that a U-shaped cut is being made to the throats of conscious cattle. PETA authorities stated, "Such deep cuts, administered shortly after the initial throat slitting by a rabbi, would cause the animal pain and suffering," said Temple Grandin, an authority on slaughter methods.

"The undercover video clearly showed that bad things are going on in the plant", Grandin added.

However, Chaim Abraham, a spokesman for the plant said the plant fully complies with federal humane slaughter rules and is monitored by the USDA inspectors. The USDA confirmed that Agriprocessors is in full compliance with humane slaughter rules.

It was further noted that the second cut after the Rabbi makes the initial cut, is legal when done under the supervision of a Rabbi.

At the USDA's direction in 2006, Agriprocessors modified its slaughter procedures, ending the practice of removing tracheae after the Rabbis' initial kill cuts and incorporating the use of a stun gun in situations when the animal was not rendered immediately senseless. This change occurred after a 2004 undercover PETA video.

Schuttes hosting open house to showcase Funeral Resource Center Sept. 20

Dave and Karen Schutte, owners of Schutte Funeral and Cremation Service, are hosting an open house on Saturday, September 20 to showcase the operation and the refurbishing they have completed in recent years. The Funeral Home, which was home to Dave and Karen and their three children, Jim, Diane and Sara, since 1970, has seen many changes throughout the years. A service rich in tradition, the Schuttes are anxious to share the facility with the community.

Schutte Funeral Home has been in existence for 107 years. It began with Louis Schutte who was born near Postville. He began his business career in 1900 as a bartender in Monona, Iowa. A year later, Louie took a job with Luhman and Sander, a dry goods store. January 1, 1916, Louie purchased the local furniture store. In 1917 Jim Harris, the local "undertaker" offered Louie a partnership in the funeral home and Louie accepted the offer. In the mid-1920s Louie purchased the business and constructed an addition to the furniture store, located at 112 West Greene Street, and put the mortuary in the back of the store and the "viewing parlours" on the second floor. In 1941 Louie built the funeral home attached to his residence at 214 East Tilden Street, where it is located today. Louie was married to Elizabeth Weihe and they had a son, Willard. Elizabeth died shortly after the birth of a daughter, who died in infancy.

Louie's son Willard completed his education and required mortuary school by 1934 and the

business became "Louis Schutte & Son." In 1946 Paul Schutte, Louie's son by his second marriage to Huldah Miller, joined the business and it became Louis Schutte & Sons. Paul opened his own LP Gas Company and left the family business in 1956. He died in 1995.

Dave and Karen were married in 1959 and purchased the business in 1968. Louis died in 1968 and Willard died in 1969. In 1970 Dave and Karen and their family, Jim, Diane, and Sara moved into the Louis Schutte residence, where they lived for over 30 years.

On Saturday, September 20, 2008, Dave and Karen will be hosting an open house at the funeral home, 214 East Tilden St., from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Dave and Karen said, "Please come and see the changes that have taken place, meet our staff and have lunch."

They added, "Robert Reiersen and his wife, Mary have been a part of the business for over 31 years. Bob came to work on January 1, 1977. Thank you is not enough for the part that they have had in the successful growth of our service. We are honoring Bob and Mary on this special afternoon. Come see the new Funeral Resource Center, meet our staff and have lunch."

The Open House will be Saturday, September 20, 2008 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the funeral home, 214 East Tilden Street, Postville.



Dave and Karen Schutte (back, left) pose with the staff of Schutte Funeral Service in the photo at the bottom left. The top photo is of the Schutte Funeral Service and Cremation Service in Postville while the photo on the bottom right is that of the Schutte Funeral Chapel in Clermont. The Schuttes will host an open house at the Postville facility on Saturday, September 20 from 2-4 p.m. Dave and Karen said, "Please come and see the changes we have made, meet our staff and have lunch." The open house will also honor long-time employees Bob and Mary Reiersen. Pictured are (front) JoDee Anderson, Mary Reiersen, Phyllis White, Joan Plaht. In back are Dave Schutte, Karen Schutte, Bob Reiersen, Dennis White and Quentin Olson.

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